

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6223

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1713

"LONDON POUCH BELFAST"

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, UK, EI

SUBJECT: FAVORABLE REACTION TO BRITISH ANTI-IRA MEASURES

1. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN ALL DUBLIN PAPERS IN FAVORABLE TO NEW ANTI-IRA MEASURES BEFORE PARLIAMENT IN ENGLAND. SOME COMMENTATORS SUGGEST, IF FACT, THAT BRITISH GOVT WAITED TOO LONG FOR IRA CRACKDOWN. PAPERS ALSO URGE GOI TO BE RESPONSIVE DURING SECURITY MEETING WHICH BRITISH HOME SECRETARY JENKINS HAS SAID HE WILL REQUEST.

2. GOI REACTION IS SIMILAR WITH ONE EXCEPTION: MINISTERS ARE TOUCHY ABOUT BRITISH HINTS THAT MORE COOPERATION IS NEEDED FROM DUBLIN. GOI HAS LEAKED TO PRESS ONE NEW MEASURE THAT IS BEING CONSIDERED: INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ENABLING SUSPECTS TO BE TRIED IN REUPUBLIC FOR MURDERS COMMITTED IN BRITAIN. GOI HAD ALREADY PROMISED TO INTRODUCE SUCH MEASURE FOR OFFENSES COMMITTED IN NORTHERN IRELAND. PASSAGE THROUGH DAIL, HOWEVER, MAY NOT BE EASY, AND EXTENSION OF "COMMON LAW ENFORCEMENT AREA" TO ENGLAND WOULD BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT.

3. GOOD GOI SOURCE TOLD US THAT EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO CAPTURE DAITHI O CONAILL (PRESUMED CHIEF OF STAFF OF PROVISIONALS).

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THIS WOULD BE BEST POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OF POLICE SUCCESS AGAINST

PROVOS. GOI IS OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED THAT A BRITISH TV CREW WAS RECENTLY ABLE TO LOCATE A MAN WHO IS ON THE RUN FROM LOCAL SECURITY FORCES.

4. COMMENT: SO FAR, GOI IS IN POSITION OF BEING ABLE TO ARGUE THAT IT IS AHEAD OF LONDON IN MEASURES AGAINST IRA. SPECIAL COURTS HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE; IRA HAS LONG BEEN PROSCRIBED IN REPUBLIC; AND DAITHI O CONAILL COULD NOT HAVE USED TV HERE FOR THE HORRIFYING INTERVIEW HE GAVE TO A BRITISH CREW. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, MANY OTHER ANTI-IRA MEASURES WHICH BRITISH COULD PRESS DUBLIN TO TAKE--LEGITIMATELY, IN OUR VIEW. AT HEAD OF LIST IS EFFECTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN SECURITY FORCES IN BORDER AREAS. GOI SEEMS LIKELY TO CONTINUE RESISTING THIS. AT SAME TIME, WE CONTINUE TO THINK THAT PUBLIC HERE IS IN MOOD TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL MEASURES AGAINST IRA, GIVEN EFFECTIVE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. MOORE

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